

APPLICANTS: Glen Jorgensen, *et al.*
U.S.S.N.: 09/728,327

REMARKS

The present application has been carefully and thoroughly reviewed in light of the Office Action of May 27, 2003. Claims 9-32 and 35-36 are pending. Claims 9, 30, 35 and 36 are independent. Claims 35 and 36 have been added and claims 10, 25 and 26 have been canceled without prejudice and disclaimer of subject matter. In that regard, new independent claim 35 corresponds to original claim 30 and includes the features recited in claim 10, and new independent claim 36 corresponds to claim 9 and includes the features previously recited in claims 25 and 26. Claims 33-34 were previously canceled due to a restriction requirement. Each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action are addressed below.

Allowable Claims

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 10, 26 and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the features of the associated base independent claim and any intervening claims. In that regard, Applicants have amended claim 9 to include the features recited in claim 10 and have also amended claim 30 to recite the features of claim 32 therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 and 30 are now patentable over the prior art, as are the associated dependent claims.

Applicants have also presented new claims 35 and 36, which are substantially similar to claims 30 and 9, respectively. Specifically, new independent claim 35 recites the features of claim 30 and claim 10. New independent claim 36 recites the features recited in claims 9, 25 and 26. In view of the indication that claims 10, 25 and 26 would be allowable if re-written in

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independent form, Applicants also respectfully submit that new claims 35 and 36 are also patentable.

The Title

The title was objected to as not descriptive. Applicants have provided a new title to address the Examiner's concern. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 9, 11-25 and 27-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over U.S. patent no. 5,639,658 (Drobish et al.). Without addressing the merits of this rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that since the features of the allowed claims have been included in the amended independent claims, and thus, the independent claims are now considered in condition for allowance.

In that regard, the dependent claims, since each incorporates by reference the features recited in the corresponding independent claim, they are also believed patentable for the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action have all been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application. However, if the Examiner is of the opinion that the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' representative at 212-692-6803, to resolve and new or outstanding issues.

It is believed that no fees are due in connection with filing this Response. In the event that it is determined that fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Customer No. 35437.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 692-6803. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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